UNITED NATIONS

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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
First Meeting of the Mid-term Review process
Geneva, 28 January 2002

PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND ANNOTATIONS

I. Provisional Agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

2. Review of the efficiency and functioning of the intergovernmental machinery

3. Stocktaking in respect of the implementation of the commitments and work programme agreed to in the Bangkok Plan of Action

4. Preparations for the interactive debates and policy dialogue in the context of opportunities and challenges of new policy developments of importance since UNCTAD X

5. Other business

6. Adoption of the report

II. Annotations

1. At its forty-eighth session, in October 2001, the Board approved the basic modalities of the Mid-term Review process, as outlined in document TD/B/48/CRP.1, that is to say three interrelated but distinct pillars, namely: (i) a review of the efficiency and functioning of the intergovernmental machinery; (ii) stocktaking in

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respect of the implementation of the commitments and work programme agreed to in the Bangkok Plan of Action (TD/386); and (iii) interactive debates and policy dialogue in the context of opportunities and challenges of new policy developments of importance since UNCTAD X.

2. The Board further agreed that three Vice-Presidents would assist the President in the preparatory work for the Mid-term Review, as follows: on the intergovernmental machinery – Mr. Federico Alberto Cuello Camilo (Dominican Republic); on the stocktaking of the implementation of the work programme based on indicators of achievements – Mrs. Eleanor M. Fuller (United Kingdom); on the interactive debates and policy dialogue in the context of opportunities and challenges of new policy developments of importance since UNCTAD X – Mr. Virasakdi Futrakul (Thailand). The two Vice-Presidents in charge of the intergovernmental machinery and stocktaking would make every effort to conclude their work prior to the Mid-term Review in Bangkok.

Item 1.Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

3. A provisional programme is attached.

Item 2. Review of the efficiency and functioning of the intergovernmental machinery

4. Under this item, Mr. Federico Alberto Cuello Camilo (Dominican Republic) will report on the progress made during his informal consultations, and delegations will be invited to table proposals for consideration by the Meeting.

Item 3. Stocktaking in respect of the implementation of the commitments and work programme agreed to in the Bangkok Plan of Action

5. Under this item, Mrs. Eleanor M. Fuller (United Kingdom) will introduce the item, and delegations will be invited to proceed with an examination of work during the biennium 2000-2001 on the basis of document TD/B(S-XIX)/L.1).

Item 4. Interactive debates and policy dialogue in the context of opportunities and challenges of new policy developments of importance since UNCTAD X

6. Under this item, Mr. Virasakdi Futrakul (Thailand) will present suggestions on the programme for the Mid-term Review in Bangkok with a view to reaching agreement on the principal elements.

Item 5. Other business

Item 6. Adoption of the report

Annex

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

	a.m.	p.m.
Monday	Opening plenary + inter-governmental machinery	Intergovernmental machinery
Tuesday	Intergovernmental machinery	Intergovernmental machinery
Wednesday	Stocktaking (general statements)	Stocktaking (programme by programme review)
Thursday	Stocktaking (programme by programme review)	Stocktaking (programme by programme review)
Friday	Stocktaking (programme by programme review)	Bangkok programme + closing plenary

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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD

REPORT OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE MID-TERM REVIEW PROCESS

Geneva, 28 January - 1 February 2002

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INTRODUCTION

Opening statements

1. The **President of the Board** recalled that, at its forty-eighth session, the Board had approved the basic modalities for the Mid-term Review process, and it had established three pillars, namely: (i) a review of the efficiency and functioning of the intergovernmental machinery; (ii) stocktaking in respect of the implementation of the commitments and work programme agreed to in the Bangkok Plan of Action (TD/386); and (iii) interactive debates and policy dialogue in the context of opportunities and challenges of new policy developments of importance since UNCTAD X.

2. The Board had further agreed that three Vice-Presidents would assist in the preparatory work for the Mid-term Review, as follows: on the intergovernmental machinery – Mr. Federico Alberto Cuello Camilo (Dominican Republic); on the stocktaking of the implementation of the work programme based on indicators of achievements – Mrs. Eleanor M. Fuller (United Kingdom); on the interactive debates and policy dialogue in the context of opportunities and challenges of new policy developments of importance since UNCTAD X – Mr. Virasakdi Futrakul (Thailand). It was decided that the two Vice-Presidents in charge of the intergovernmental machinery and stocktaking would make every effort to conclude their work prior to the Mid-term Review in Bangkok.

3. The **Secretary-General of UNCTAD** thanked the Government and people of Thailand for their generous offer to host the mid-term review and for their continued commitment to UNCTAD. The inauguration of the International Institute for Trade and Development in Bangkok at the time of the Mid-term Review meeting represented a concrete outcome of UNCTAD X.

4. The Mid-term Review would provide an opportunity to take stock of what had been achieved since UNCTAD X, to look at the present situation and to determine what adjustments might be needed in the light of new developments. The goal was not to question what had been agreed at UNCTAD X, since nothing had happened since then that would justify profound changes, nor was the goal to prepare for UNCTAD XI.

5. The work of UNCTAD was particularly affected by the economic environment in which development took place. Since UNCTAD X, conjunctural changes had occurred, both positive and negative. The United States had gone into recession, and other major industrial economies were facing difficulties too. However, it could be hoped that the recession would not be too deep or long-lasting, and some signs of recovery could be detected. The introduction of the euro represented an historic event which would affect the monetary structure of the world. At the same time, developments such as those in Argentina could only be a matter of serious concern, and stood as a reminder of the constant challenges facing development in an increasingly complex world.

6. Factors affecting the work of UNCTAD at another level included the Doha WTO Ministerial Meeting. The broad negotiations launched at Doha and the introduction of the

development dimension into those negotiations would impact the work of UNCTAD, which would have to see how best to meet the challenge of helping countries benefit from those multilateral negotiations. The secretariat had already set up an internal task force, which had almost finalized a demand-driven comprehensive programme of assistance for delegations participating in the negotiations. Other events that would have a significant impact on UNCTAD's work included the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, the international conference on Financing for Development, and the Conference on Sustainable Development.

7. Trade negotiations were a necessary but not sufficient condition for development. Such negotiations created opportunities, but to take advantage of these opportunities, each country had to build up its own productive capacity, diversify and become competitive. Related actions covered in the Bangkok Plan of Action included strengthening the productive sector, improving the capacity to generate savings and attract investment, developing the enterprise sector, building synergies between national suppliers and transnational corporations, and generating the conditions required to improve the use of technology. Such actions had to be taken in parallel with trade negotiations, not afterwards.

8. In conclusion, he re-emphasized that the Mid-term Review should be used to see how the Bangkok Plan of Action should be focused in the light of events and constraints and to set priorities.

9. The representative of **Thailand**, speaking on behalf of the **Group of 77 and China**, said that the Mid-term Review was an exercise of great importance, and its success would set the stage for UNCTAD XI. The Mid-term Review was taking place at a critical time, since the global economy was beset by the worst global deflation for half a century, and the developing countries were being badly affected. The Mid-term Review represented a good opportunity to exchange views on what had been done and what remained to be done with regard to the implementation of the Bangkok Plan of Action, as well as on how developed and developing countries could work together in order to navigate through these turbulent times. The Group of 77 and China would work actively for the success of the Mid-term Review.

10. The representative of **Bangladesh**, speaking on behalf of the **least developed countries**, said that, since UNCTAD X, there had been a number of major developments that had affected LDCs and that generated specific duties for UNCTAD. LDCs should therefore remain at the centre of UNCTAD's work programmes. In particular, UNCTAD should continue to translate into action the Programme of Action for the LDCs adopted at Brussels. The creation of the High Representative for LDCs, Land-locked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States had not changed the mandate of UNCTAD concerning substantive support for LDCs, and indeed the General Assembly had called for UNCTAD to be strengthened.

11. The Brussels Programme of Action invited the Board to consider converting its Sessional Committee on LDCs into a Standing Committee. In its decision 467(XLVIII), the Board had decided to begin consultations on that matter in the context of its examination of

the intergovernmental machinery. The proposal to establish a Standing Committee was independent of the recommendation in paragraph 116 of the Programme of Action, and it was hoped that the issue would be suitably addressed at the current meeting.

12. The Trust Fund for LDCs was a welcome initiative, but contributions remained unsatisfactory. UNCTAD should redouble its fund-raising efforts in that regard. The Commission on Investment, Technology and Related Financial Issues and WAIPA had stressed the importance of human resource development in LDCs, and it was hoped that that would be reflected in the delivery of UNCTAD's technical assistance programme. The Bangkok Plan of Action had called upon UNCTAD to prepare an integrated programme of technical assistance for LDCs, and it was hoped that the assessment of resource requirements would be completed soon.

13. UNCTAD's expert meetings contributed to policy analysis and decision-making in LDCs, but lack of funds limited LDC experts' participation, and if those experts could not attend, the meetings' recommendations might not be very relevant for LDCs. There was also a gap between expert meeting recommendations and Commission decisions. It was hoped that those matters could be resolved.

14. The external environment facing the LDCs remained as unfavourable as ever, and the LDCs development partners needed to take a more proactive role in improving that environment. It was hoped that the Mid-term Review would take the concerns of LDCs on board.

15. The representative of **Spain**, speaking on behalf of the **European Union**, said it was hoped that, as a result of the Mid-term Review, UNCTAD would be strengthened in order to make it more effective in carrying out its mandate. The Mid-term Review must be seen in the context of recent developments, in particular the Third United Nations Conference on LDCs and the WTO Ministerial Meeting in Doha. The latter had thrown down an important challenge for UNCTAD, since it had been the first WTO Ministerial Meeting to incorporate the development dimension, with specific references to UNCTAD. With regard to the review of the intergovernmental machinery, the latter could function better, and an in-depth examination of its workings was necessary. Any reform of the machinery should not increase the number of intergovernmental meetings. Concerning the stocktaking exercise, the aim was not to renegotiate the Bangkok Programme of Action but to try to implement it as effectively as possible. The three pillars of the Mid-term Review process were interconnected and should therefore be dealt with jointly. Finally, he thanked the Government of Thailand for hosting the Mid-term Review.

16. The representative of **Norway** said that the Mid-term Review represented a good opportunity to take stock of what had been achieved and to see how to respond to new challenges. The goal was not to renegotiate the outcome of UNCTAD X, but to take account of new developments such as the Third United Nations Conference on the LDCs, the WTO Ministerial Meeting in Doha, the Financing for Development Conference, and the Sustainable Development Conference. It was hoped that the Mid-term Review would provide general orientations on how to focus future work, and that implied priority-setting and rationalization.

UNCTAD's comparative advantages would be of great importance in that connection. With regard to the review of the intergovernmental machinery, it would be important to try to improve the expert meetings, to take a close look at the Commissions and to enhance the work of the Board. In conclusion, he thanked Thailand for offering to host the Mid-term Review.

17. The representative of **Uganda**, speaking on behalf of the **African Group**, said that, with respect to the intergovernmental machinery, the goal should be not to engage in a major overhaul but to improve its functioning. With regard to the stocktaking exercise, there should be no attempt to renegotiate the Bangkok Plan of Action. Two particular questions that would have to be tackled and resolved concerned predictable funding for the participation of developing country experts in UNCTAD expert meetings and the implementation of paragraph 166 of the Bangkok Plan of Action.

18. The intergovernmental machinery of UNCTAD must be able to react to recent events, but care must be taken not to divert it from its core mandates. Concerning the issue of the Board's Sessional Committee on LDCs, he called for its conversion into a Standing Committee. The new Office of the High Representative for LDCs, Land-locked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States had its own mandate and did not duplicate UNCTAD's LDC work, and the Programme of Action for the LDCs must be mainstreamed into that work. Finally, he thanked Thailand for hosting the Mid-term Review.

Chapter I

REVIEW OF THE EFFICIENCY AND FUNCTIONING OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL MACHINERY

(Agenda item 3)

19. The representative of the **Dominican Republic**, speaking in his capacity as Chairperson for the pillar of the Mid-term Review on the intergovernmental machinery, said that it was important to make UNCTAD capable of responding to change. With regard to the review of the intergovernmental machinery, he had held informal consultations with all regional groups in December and January, and as a result of those consultations he had tabled an informal paper as a basis for the discussions at the first meeting of the Mid-term Review process.

Informal meetings

20. The review was pursued in informal meetings.

Closing plenary

21. The representative of the **Dominican Republic**, speaking in his capacity as Chairperson for the pillar of the Mid-term Review on the intergovernmental machinery, said that his initial informal paper had been extensively revised, and a new draft dated 29 January was now on the table. Two problems had emerged as being of decisive importance. The first was the issue of financing of experts, which was under consideration in the Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme Budget and which would affect the future effectiveness of expert meetings. The second related to the establishment in New York of the Office of the High Representative for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, which would affect the work of the Trade and Development Board and the efficacy of capacity-building work.

22. The **President** said it was assumed that informal consultations would continue in preparation for the second meeting of the Mid-term Review process.

Chapter II

STOCKTAKING IN RESPECT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMMITMENTS AND WORK PROGRAMME AGREED TO IN THE BANGKOK PLAN OF ACTION

23. The representative of the **United Kingdom**, speaking in her capacity as Chairperson for the pillar of the Mid-term Review on stocktaking, said that the preparatory work for the stocktaking exercise had been done by the secretariat, which had produced a programme assessment for 2000-2001 (TD/B(S-XIX)/L.1). Work on stocktaking would begin with general statements, after which activities would be reviewed on a subprogramme-by-subprogramme basis. The aim would be to look at what had been done, determine what still needed to be done, and draw lessons from the past period with a view to enhancing delivery.

Informal meetings

24. The stocktaking exercise was pursued in informal meetings.

Closing plenary

25. The representative of the **United Kingdom**, speaking in her capacity as Chairperson for the pillar of the Mid-Term Review on stocktaking, said that, in the course of the first meeting, it had been possible to cover two subprogrammes, as well as the issue of the implementation of paragraph 166 of the Bangkok Plan of Action. The secretariat was preparing summaries of the discussions, which would be the subject of consultations prior to the second meeting. With regard to the readership survey circulated by the secretariat (UNCTAD/EDM/Misc.201), in view of the small number of respondents, the survey could not be regarded as representative, and member States were requested to reply to the questionnaire before the second meeting.

Chapter III

PREPARATIONS FOR THE INTERACTIVE DEBATES AND POLICY DIALOGUE IN THE CONTEXT OF OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES OF NEW POLICY DEVELOPMENTS OF IMPORTANCE SINCE UNCTAD X

(Agenda item 4)

26. The representative of **Thailand**, speaking in his capacity as Chairperson for the pillar of the Mid-term Review on the interactive debates and policy dialogue, briefed the meeting on various organizational aspects of the Mid-term Review in Bangkok and on the related preparations by the host country. He also circulated an informal paper containing the provisional programme for the Review and annotations for the interactive debates.

27. The Review would take place from Tuesday, 30 April, to Thursday, 2 May. The basic elements of the programme would include the opening of the thirty-ninth special session of the Board, an inaugural ceremony for the Review, two interactive debates, and the closing session of the special session. The first interactive debate would relate to economic policy challenges that had arisen since UNCTAD X, and the second would focus on development challenges of the future in the context of globalization.

28. On Wednesday, 29 April, delegates attending the special session would be invited to attend the inauguration of the International Institute for Trade and Development in Chulalongkorn University.

Chapter IV

CLOSING STATEMENTS

29. The representative of **Paraguay**, speaking on behalf of the **Latin American and Caribbean Group**, said that the aim of the Mid-term Review was to evaluate problems that had arisen in the implementation of the Bangkok Plan of Action and see how to improve UNCTAD's effectiveness in the future. However, 'improving effectiveness' did not mean making financial cuts and doing more with less, but rather responding to new challenges through innovative and practical initiatives. The Bangkok Plan of Action embodied such initiatives, and should therefore be implemented in full.

30. The developing countries were embarking on a series of negotiations in various fields, and would have difficulty in identifying their priorities and implementing their development policies. They therefore needed UNCTAD's support, which could only be negatively affected by resource cuts.

31. With regard to the intergovernmental machinery, strengthening the machinery would improve the quality of its recommendations and conclusions. Enhancing links between UNCTAD intergovernmental bodies and other intergovernmental bodies should be a priority. Concerning the stocktaking exercise, it was clear that much remained to be done in implementing the Bangkok Plan of Action. It would be important to ensure that decisions taken in one United Nations forum were not negatively affected or delayed when taken up in other United Nations fora. There must be coherence between policies and budgets right up until final adoption. With respect to the pillar on policy dialogue in the context of new policy developments, the results of the Doha WTO Ministerial Conference represented an important parameter in defining the future work of UNCTAD. In addition, the Financing for Development Conference in Monterrey would set the priorities for international financing and cooperation bodies.

32. Finally, it was important that the development dimension of UNCTAD's work not be lost sight of in any discussions or negotiations.

Chapter V

ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. Opening of the session

33. The first meeting of the Mid-term Review process was opened on 28 January 2002 by Mr. Ali Said Mchumo (United Republic of Tanzania), President of the Board.

B. Officers

34. The officers of the Board were as elected at the forty-eighth session of the Board, as follows:

President:	Mr. Ali Said Mchumo (United Republic of Tanzania)
Vice-Presidents:	Mr. Iouri Afanassiev (Russian Federation) Mr. Toufik Ali (Bangladesh) Mr. Federico Alberto Cuello Camilo (Dominican Republic) Mr. Douglas M. Griffiths (United States of America) Mrs. Eleanor M. Fuller (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) Mr. Virasakdi Futrakul (Thailand) Mr. Nathan Irumba (Uganda) Mr. Toshiyuki Iwado (Japan) Mr. Kalman Petocz (Slovakia) Mr. Jacques Scavee (Belgium)
Rapporteur:	Mr. Federico Perazza Scapino (Uruguay)

C. Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the session

35. At the opening meeting, the provisional agenda as contained in document TD/B(S-XIX)/PREP/1 was adopted, as follows:

1. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

2. Review of the efficiency and functioning of the intergovernmental machinery

3. Stocktaking in respect of the implementation of the commitments and work programme agreed to in the Bangkok Plan of Action

4. Preparations for the interactive debates and policy dialogue in the context of opportunities and challenges of new policy developments of importance since UNCTAD X

5. Other business

6. Adoption of the report

D. Other business - UNCTAD calendar of meetings

36. At its plenary meeting on 1 February 2002, the Trade and Development Boad approved the following adjustments to the UNCTAD calendar of meetings:

A second resumed thirty-eighth session of the Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme Budget would be held on 13 February 2002.

The fifth session of the commission on Enterprise, Business Facilitation and Development would be held from 18 to 21 February 2002;

The third meeting of the Mid-term Review process would be held from 25 to 28 March 2002.

E. Adoption of the report

37. At the closing plenary of the first meeting of the Mid-term Review process the Board adopted its draft report (TD/B(S-XIX)PREP/L.1), subject to amendments received from delegations to summaries of statements, and authorized the Rapporteur to complete the report in the light of the proceedings of the closing plenary.

Annex

ATTENDANCE *

1. The following States members of UNCTAD, members of the First Meeting of the Mid-term Review process, were represented at the meeting:

Algeria
Angola
Argentina
Austria
Bangladesh
Barbados
Belarus
Benin
Brazil
Bulgaria
Burundi
Canada
China
Colombia
Congo
Côte d'Ivoire
Cuba
Democratic People's Republic of Korea
Denmark
Dominican Republic
Ecuador
Egypt
El Salvador
Ethiopia
Finland
France
Germany
Ghana
Guatemala
Guinea
India
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Ireland
Israel
Italy
Jamaica
Japan
Kenya
Latvia
Lesotho
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
Luxembourg
Madagascar
Malaysia
Mexico
Morocco
Namibia
Nepal
Netherlands
Nigeria
Norway
Oman
Pakistan
Panama
Paraguay
Peru
Philippines
Portugal
Republic of Korea
Russian Federation
Senegal
Singapore
Slovakia
Spain
Sri Lanka
Sudan
Switzerland

* For the list of participants, see TD/B(S-XIX)/PREP/INF.1.

Syrian Arab Republic
Thailand
Trinidad and Tobago
Tunisia
Turkey
Uganda
Ukraine
United Arab Emirates
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United Republic of Tanzania
United States of America
Uruguay
Viet Nam
Yemen
Zambia
Zimbabwe

2. The following States members of UNCTAD, not members of the First Meeting of the Mid-term Review process, were represented as observers at the session:

Brunei Darussalam
Holy See
Mozambique
Swaziland

3. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented at the meeting:

African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States
European Community
League of Arab States
Organization of the Islamic Conference
South Centre

4. The following specialized agencies and related organizations were represented at the meeting:

International Labour Organisation
International Monetary Fund
World Trade Organization

5. The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the International Trade Centre were represented at the meeting.

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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD

REPORT OF THE SECOND MEETING OF THE MID-TERM REVIEW PROCESS

Geneva, 25 February - 1 March 2002

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Annex

Attendance 8

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Chapter I

OPENING STATEMENTS

1. The representative of **Bangladesh**, speaking on behalf of the **least developed countries**, said that it was vital for the Bangkok Plan of Action to be implemented fully, and the LDCs reiterated their full commitment to the principles enshrined therein.

2. At the conclusion of the first meeting of the Mid-term Review process, there had seemed to be some confusion concerning the creation of the Office of the High Representative in New York. However, the functions of that Office actually complemented the functions of UNCTAD; the functions of the Office of the High Representative consisted of system-wide coordination, advocacy and reporting, while UNCTAD's functions continued to consist of providing the analytical and substantive support that the LDCs required. The General Assembly had stressed that UNCTAD's functions should be strengthened, and that was the wish of the LDCs.

3. There was a broad measure of support for the idea that UNCTAD, in reviewing the implementation of the Bangkok Plan of Action, should devote special attention to two events that had occurred since UNCTAD X, namely the Third United Nations Conference on LDCs and the Doha WTO Ministerial Conference. In that connection, the Bangkok Plan of Action clearly stated that the LDCs should have priority in the assistance provided by UNCTAD.

4. Concerning the future work of UNCTAD, over the past decade the LDCs had failed to take advantage of the concessions offered by their development partners, and it might be that LDCs were often not aware of those concessions. That must be remedied. The Programme of Action for the LDCs for the Decade 2001-2010 and the outcome of the Doha Ministerial Conference contained several commitments and best endeavour provisions in favour of LDCs. UNCTAD could analyse those, make an inventory and study their potential effectiveness in the LDCs, thereby helping LDCs to understand what was being offered to them.

5. In document E/2001/CRP.5 of July 2001, UNCTAD had summarized the theoretical benefits of LDC status in terms of the LDCs' structural handicaps, but it had indicated that an analysis was needed of the benefits effectively derived by the LDCs. UNCTAD should do that analysis as soon as possible.

6. Finally, it was hoped that, in the review of the intergovernmental machinery, a solution would be found to the problem of financing the participation of experts, and that the secretariat would table recommendations on the possible conversion of the Board's sessional committee to a standing committee.

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF THE EFFICIENCY AND FUNCTIONING OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL MACHINERY

(Agenda item 2)

Informal meetings

7. Consideration of this item took place in informal meetings.

Closing plenary

8. At the closing plenary, on 1 March 2002, the representative of the **Dominican Republic**, speaking in his capacity as Chairperson of the pillar of the Mid-term Review on the intergovernmental machinery, said that work had proceeded on the basis of the informal draft dated 29 January that had emerged from the first meeting of the Mid-term Review process. Progress had been made, as reflected in an informal paper dated 1 March 2002, but much remained to be done. A number of delegations had indicated that informal consultations should be held prior to the third meeting of the Mid-term Review process. If such consultations were held, they must be open and transparent and they must produce results that reflected a balance of interests.

9. The **President** informed the Board that it was his intention to complete the work of the twenty-eighth executive session of the Board in two days instead of three, i.e. on 12-13 March 2002. This would release 11 March for informal consultations on the intergovernmental machinery.

Action by the Board

10. The Board decided to convene informal consultations on the intergovernmental machinery on 11 March 2002.

11. The representative of the **Dominican Republic**, speaking in his capacity as Chairperson of the pillar of the Mid-term Review on the intergovernmental machinery, asked delegations to circulate written proposals for amendments to the informal paper as soon as possible. He also encouraged regional groups to meet before 11 March in order to facilitate agreement.

Chapter III

STOCKTAKING IN RESPECT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMMITMENTS AND WORK PROGRAMME AGREED TO IN THE BANGKOK PLAN OF ACTION

(Agenda item 3)

12. For its consideration of this item, the meeting had before it the following documentation:

> "Programme assessment for 2000-2001: Note by the UNCTAD secretariat" (TD/B(S-XIX)/L.1).

Informal meetings

13. Consideration of this item took place in informal meetings.

Closing plenary

14. The representative of the **United Kingdom**, speaking in her capacity as Chairperson of the pillar of the Mid-term Review on stocktaking, said that subprogrammes 9.3, 9.4 and 9.5 had been reviewed at the second meeting. A preliminary draft reflecting the discussions would be made available during the week of 11 March for comments and refinement in time for the third meeting of the Mid-term Review. With regard to the readership survey, States that had not yet done so were encouraged to reply by 8 March. The main business at the third meeting of the Mid-term Review process would concern the implications for UNCTAD of the outcome of the International Conference on Financing for Development, the secretariat's internal review of technical cooperation procedures, and the finalization of the outcome of the pillar on stocktaking.

Chapter IV

PREPARATIONS FOR THE INTERACTIVE DEBATES AND POLICY DIALOGUE IN THE CONTEXT OF OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES OF NEW POLICY DEVELOPMENTS OF IMPORTANCE SINCE UNCTAD X

(Agenda item 4)

15. The representative of **Thailand**, speaking in his capacity as Chairperson for the pillar of the Mid-term Review on the interactive debates and policy dialogue, said that the outcomes of the pillars on the intergovernmental machinery and on stocktaking would feed directly into the debates in Bangkok. With regard to those debates, the secretariat was preparing an issues paper, which would hopefully be ready early in March for distribution to all delegations, after which a consultation meeting would be held to receive feedback from delegations, thereby ensuring that the contents of the round tables would be tailored to meet delegations' interests. The logistical preparations in Bangkok were proceeding well, and an information package had been prepared by the Thai Government, and would be distributed to all delegations by the secretariat.

Chapter V

ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. Opening of the meeting

16. The second meeting of the Mid-term Review process was opened on 25 February 2002 at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, by Mr. Ali Said Mchumo (United Republic of Tanzania), President of the Board.

B. Officers

17. The officers of the Board were as elected at the forty-eighth session of the Board, as follows:

President:	Mr. Ali Said Mchumo (United Republic of Tanzania)
Vice-Presidents:	Mr. Iouri Afanassiev (Russian Federation) Mr. Toufik Ali (Bangladesh) Mr. Federico Alberto Cuello Camilo (Dominican Republic) Mr. Douglas M. Griffiths (United States of America) Mrs. Eleanor M. Fuller (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) Mr. Virasakdi Futrakul (Thailand) Mr. Nathan Irumba (Uganda) Mr. Toshiyuki Iwado (Japan) Mr. Kalman Petocz (Slovakia) Mr. Jacques Scavee (Belgium)
Rapporteur:	Mr. Federico Perazza Scapino (Uruguay)

C. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

18. At the opening meeting, the agenda was adopted, as follows:

1. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
2. Review of the efficiency and functioning of the intergovernmental machinery
3. Stocktaking in respect of the implementation of the commitments and work programme agreed to in the Bangkok Plan of Action
4. Preparations for the interactive debates and policy dialogue in the context of opportunities and challenges of new policy developments of importance since UNCTAD X
5. Other business
6. Adoption of the report

D. Adoption of the report

19. At the closing plenary meeting, on 1 March 2002, the Board adopted the draft report of the second meeting of the Mid-term Review process (TD/B(S-XIX)/PREP/L.2), subject to amendments to summaries of statements, and authorized the Rapporteur to finalize the report in the light of the proceedings of the closing plenary.

Annex

ATTENDANCE *

1. The following States members of UNCTAD were represented at the meeting:

Angola
Argentina
Austria
Bangladesh
Belarus
Belgium
Benin
Bhutan
Bolivia
Brazil
Bulgaria
Burundi
China
Colombia
Costa Rica
Croatia
Cuba
Denmark
Dominican Republic
Ecuador
Egypt
El Salvador
Ethiopia
Finland
France
Gabon
Germany
Greece
Haiti
Honduras
India
Indonesia
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Ireland
Italy
Japan
Kenya
Kuwait
Latvia
Lesotho
Luxembourg
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
Madagascar
Malaysia
Malta
Mauritius
Morocco
Nepal
Netherlands
Nicaragua
Nigeria
Oman
Panama
Paraguay
Peru
Philippines
Portugal
Republic of Korea
Russian Federation
Saudi Arabia
Senegal
Singapore
Slovakia
South Africa
Spain
Sri Lanka
Switzerland
Thailand
Trinidad and Tobago
Tunisia

* For the list of participants, see TD/B(S-XIX)/PREP/INF.2.

Uganda
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United States of America
Venezuela
Viet Nam

2. The following States members of UNCTAD were represented as observers at the meeting:

Botswana
Holy See

3. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented at the meeting:

African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States
Common Fund for Commodities
League of Arab States

4. The following specialized agencies and related organizations were represented at the meeting:

International Monetary Fund
World Trade Organization

5. The High Commissioner for Human Rights was represented at the meetings.

6. The following non-governmental organizations were represented at the meeting:

General category

World Vision International

Special Category

International Multimodal Transport Association

UNITED NATIONS

TD

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

Distr.
GENERAL

TD/B(S-XIX)/PREP/4
16 April 2002

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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD

REPORT OF THE THIRD MEETING OF THE MID-TERM REVIEW PROCESS

Geneva, 25 - 28 March 2002

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Chapter I

REVIEW OF THE EFFICIENCY AND FUNCTIONING OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL MACHINERY

(Agenda item 2)

1. For its consideration of this item, the meeting had before it the following documentation:

"Informal Chairperson's paper dated 22 March 2002".

Informal meetings

2. Consideration of this item took place in informal meetings.

Closing plenary

3. At the closing plenary, on 28 March 2002, the representative of the **Dominican Republic**, speaking in his capacity as Chairperson of the pillar of the Mid-term Review on the intergovernmental machinery, said that, in spite of the flexibility and dedication shown by all, it had not been possible to reach consensus on the issue of the intergovernmental machinery, and a number of key issues remained to be resolved. The annex to the latest informal text dealt with the financing of experts and contained a number of elements necessary for a solution to the issue. The latest informal text would be distributed and serve as a basis for further consultations in April.

Action by the Board

4. At its closing plenary meeting, on 28 March, the Board decided to hold informal consultations during the period 8-16 April with the aim of completing the work on the intergovernmental machinery before the meeting in Bangkok. In view of the unavailability of Ambassador Cuello (Dominican Republic) during the period in question, the Board requested Ambassador Ali (Bangladesh) to chair the informal consultations.

Closing statements

5. The representative of **Peru**, speaking on behalf of the **Latin American and Caribbean Group**, said that, notwithstanding the great efforts made by all delegations during the present review, the lack of progress on several substantive issues contained in the text on the intergovernmental machinery was frustrating. It was the understanding of his Group that negotiations must be finished before the Bangkok meeting and that the text was a package and a "single undertaking", so that nothing was approved until everything had been approved. In the annex to the latest version of the text, the reference to "bearing in mind particularly the needs of LDCs" should be between square brackets because it was a new addition that had not even been discussed during the informal meetings and might compromise the need to ensure balanced participation of all developing countries at UNCTAD meetings. With regard

to the main text, the question of lack of financing for the implementation of paragraph 166 of the Bangkok Plan of Action should be dealt with and included as a separate point. With regard to the regular sessions of the Board, there should be a standing agenda item providing for an analysis of the new challenges faced by developing countries, including *inter alia* the follow-up to the Doha Meeting.

6. The representative of **Egypt**, speaking on behalf of the **Group of 77 and China**, expressed concern about the progress being made on the intergovernmental machinery. His Group was keen to pursue work on the basis of what had been achieved so far.

7. The representative of **Sri Lanka**, speaking on behalf of the **Asian Group and China**, said that the text on the intergovernmental machinery was a package and must therefore be accepted in its entirety, not in a piecemeal fashion.

8. The representative of **Uganda**, speaking on behalf of the **African Group**, said that the annex to the text on the intergovernmental machinery, dealing with the financing of experts, represented an important achievement.

9. The representative of **Bangladesh**, speaking on behalf of the **LDCs**, welcomed the fact that it had been possible to resolve the issue concerning the treatment of LDC issues in the Board.

Chapter II

STOCKTAKING IN RESPECT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMMITMENTS AND WORK PROGRAMME AGREED TO IN THE BANGKOK PLAN OF ACTION

(Agenda item 3)

10. For its consideration of this item, the meeting had before it the following documentation:

> "Programme assessment for 2000-2001: Note by the UNCTAD secretariat" (TD/B(S-XIX)/L.1);
>
> "Stocktaking in respect of the implementation of the commitments and work programme agreed to in the Bangkok Plan of Action: Second preliminary and incomplete working draft – 12 March 2002".

Informal meetings

11. Consideration of this item took place in informal meetings.

Closing plenary

12. The representative of the **United Kingdom**, speaking in her capacity as Chairperson of the pillar of the Mid-term Review on stocktaking, said that discussions on the stocktaking pillar had been completed. However, the process as a whole had not yet been completed, and a final draft would be circulated for comments, which should be made by 4 April.

13. The representative of **Peru**, speaking on behalf of the **Latin American and Caribbean Group**, said that the outcome of the stocktaking pillar would be "noted" by the Board and not "adopted", and that should be made clear in the agenda and programme. With regard to the latest working draft, his Group had difficulties with paragraphs 20 and 34 on the implementation of paragraph 166 of the Bangkok Plan of Action, and it would like the views it had expressed during the discussions to be duly reflected.

14. The representative of **Sri Lanka**, speaking on behalf of the **Asian Group and China**, expressed appreciation for the transparency of the stocktaking exercise and the balance achieved in the resulting text.

15. The representative of **Uruguay** said that the stocktaking text did not reflect the views of his and other delegations on the implementation of paragraph 166 of the Bangkok Plan of Action. His delegation would be providing comments and suggestions in that connection. The paper on stocktaking should indicate that it was a Chairperson's paper.

16. The representative of **Uganda**, speaking on behalf of the **African Group**, said that the stocktaking document was balanced, and that balance should be maintained in the final version.

17. The representative of **Spain**, speaking on behalf of the **European Union**, said that the EU would be submitting comments on the text so that the final outcome would get even greater support.

Chapter III

PREPARATIONS FOR THE INTERACTIVE DEBATES AND POLICY DIALOGUE IN THE CONTEXT OF OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES OF NEW POLICY DEVELOPMENTS OF IMPORTANCE SINCE UNCTAD X

(Agenda item 4)

18. The representative of **Thailand**, speaking in his capacity as Chairperson for the pillar of the Mid-term Review on the interactive debates and policy dialogue, said that an unedited issues paper prepared by the UNCTAD secretariat to provide the catalyst for the round tables in Bangkok would be circulated immediately, and there would be a brainstorming based on it on 5 April. In Bangkok, the round tables would be attended by a number of ministers, but all delegations would be invited to participate.

19. There followed a presentation by Thailand, as the host country, on Bangkok and Thailand.

Chapter IV

CLOSING STATEMENT

20. The **Deputy Secretary-General of UNCTAD** said that the Mid-term Review was extremely important for the secretariat because of the guidance it provided. The document that had emerged from the stocktaking pillar represented an excellent statement of progress achieved and future areas of emphasis, and he was in no way discouraged by the fact that agreement had not yet been reached on the pillar on the intergovernmental machinery.

Chapter V

ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. Opening of the meeting

21. The third meeting of the Mid-term Review process was opened on 25 March 2002 at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, by Mr. Toufik Ali (Bangladesh), Vice-President of the Board.

B. Officers

22. The officers of the Board were as elected at the forty-eighth session of the Board, as follows:

President:	Mr. Ali Said Mchumo (United Republic of Tanzania)
Vice-Presidents:	Mr. Iouri Afanassiev (Russian Federation) Mr. Toufik Ali (Bangladesh) Mr. Federico Alberto Cuello Camilo (Dominican Republic) Mr. Douglas M. Griffiths (United States of America) Mrs. Eleanor M. Fuller (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) Mr. Virasakdi Futrakul (Thailand) Mr. Nathan Irumba (Uganda) Mr. Toshiyuki Iwado (Japan) Mr. Kalman Petocz (Slovakia) Mr. Jacques Scavee (Belgium)
Rapporteur:	Mr. Federico Perazza Scapino (Uruguay)

C. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

23. At the opening meeting, the agenda was adopted, as follows:

1. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
2. Review of the efficiency and functioning of the intergovernmental machinery
3. Stocktaking in respect of the implementation of the commitments and work programme agreed to in the Bangkok Plan of Action
4. Preparations for the interactive debates and policy dialogue in the context of opportunities and challenges of new policy developments of importance since UNCTAD X
5. Other business
6. Adoption of the report

D. Adoption of the report

24. At the closing plenary meeting, on 28 March 2002, the Board authorized the Rapporteur to prepare and finalize the report in the light of the proceedings of the closing plenary.

Annex

ATTENDANCE *

1. The following States members of UNCTAD were represented at the meeting:

Argentina
Austria
Bahrain
Bangladesh
Belarus
Belgium
Benin
Bhutan
Bolivia
Brazil
Bulgaria
China
Croatia
Cuba
Czech Republic
Denmark
Dominican Republic
Ecuador
Egypt
Ethiopia
Finland
France
Germany
Guinea
Haiti
Honduras
India
Indonesia
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Ireland
Israel
Italy
Jamaica
Japan
Kenya
Latvia
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
Madagascar
Malaysia
Malta
Mauritius
Morocco
Nepal
Netherlands
Nigeria
Norway
Oman
Paraguay
Peru
Philippines
Portugal
Republic of Korea
Russian Federation
Senegal
Singapore
Spain
Sri Lanka
Sudan
Switzerland
Thailand
Tunisia
Turkey
Uganda
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United States of America
Viet Nam
Zimbabwe

* For the list of participants, see TD/B(S-XIX)/PREP/INF.3.

2. The following States members of UNCTAD were represented as observers at the meeting:

Botswana
Djibouti

3. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented at the meeting:

African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States
Arab Labour Organization
European Community
International Textiles and Clothing Bureau
Organization of African Unity

4. The following specialized agencies and related organizations were represented at the meeting:

International Monetary Fund
Universal Postal Union
United Nations Development Organization

5. The High Commissioner for Human Rights and the International Trade Center UNCTAD/WTO were represented at the meeting.

6. The following non-governmental organizations were represented at the meeting:

General Category

Exchange and Cooperation Centre for Latin America
International Confederation of Free Trade Unions

Special Category

International Multimodal Transport Association